



THE BLUE MOUNTAINS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Year End Report

The Vision of The Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department is:

To provide the citizens of The Blue Mountains with pro-active, effective and efficient delivery of fire, rescue, public education and fire prevention services; through a unified forward thinking organization with good morale and with the highest standards of personnel safety, fairness and professionalism.





REPORT TO: Finance & Administration Committee
FROM: Ron Doherty, Fire Chief
DATE: March 11, 2010
SUBJECT: 2009 Year End Report

The Blue Mountains Fire Department

2009 Year End Report

This Year End Report is to provide information with regards to the operation and status of The Blue Mountains Fire Department for the January – December 2009

Highlights of 2009:

- The department responded to 24 working fires, 112 false alarms, 13 pre-fire conditions and 53 other responses.
- Deputy Fire Chief – Since Rob Collins' resignation on January 16, 2009. The Fire Department received permission to advertise for his replacement in September 2009 and have been working with Tracey McKenna to find a candidate for the position.

There were no successful applications with the internal posting and the two prospective candidates from the outside posting both declined for various reasons. A second advertisement is finished and interviews are starting.

- **Master Fire Plan**
The Municipal Council endorsed the Fire Master Plan on July 13, 2009 to ensure the following be completed:
 1. Approve the hiring of three fire service personnel as outlined in the Fire Master Plan.
 - Job descriptions for Fire Prevention Inspector/Suppression and Training Officer/Suppression were forwarded to the CAO and Human Resources Offices on October 15, 2009 for approval and internal posting for candidates.

2. Authorize the creation of positions entitled Chief Fire Prevention Officer and District Station Chief.
 - After consultation with Paul Graham, new job descriptions for Chief Fire Prevention Officer/Mechanical Officer and District Station Chief # 1 were forwarded to the CAO and Human Resources Offices on October 15, 2009 for approval.
3. Authorize an increase in the Volunteer Firefighter Complement at each fire Station to 24 from the current 20.
 - The Fire Department was unable to initiate a new recruit class during the 2009 year.

▪ **Staff Meetings**

Staff meetings are held bimonthly to discuss ongoing items within the department and determine ways of dealing with issues. There has been more emphasis placed on Occupational Health & Safety Issues this year. The meetings allow for the flow of information to each division of the Fire Department from Senior Management and Council.

▪ **Simplified Risk Assessment**

A. J. Lake, Prevention Officer completed the department's latest "Simplified Risk Assessment" in July 2009, which is an analysis of the municipality's fire prevention programs and activities necessary to manage the community's fire risk. This 24 page document has been put on hold as we are awaiting updated population figures. Once these are available and approved by the CAO, the document can be forwarded to Council.

▪ **3rd Quarter Fire Report**

This report was completed for the September 2009 Finance & Administration Committee meeting, but was pulled by the CAO's Office for further review.

▪ **Computer Software**

The Department is creating the Request for Proposal for the computer software specific to the Fire Department. This Software will greatly enhance the efficiency of the department, allowing for more effective scheduling along with a greater ability to develop statistics. We are looking into costing and efficiency issues which will make the running of the department much more effective. In discussion with Treasury and Paul Graham it was felt feasible to use some of the unused wages of the Deputy Chief for 2009 (\$25,000) to go forward with the purchase of Fire Department software in early 2010. This is in the 2010 Capital Budget.

CHALLENGES FOR 2009 AND 2010

- EMS – A formal request outlining the County’s prospective on the EMS Base in the Craigleith area was received by Mr. Graham on November 5, 2009. They required from the Municipality site zoning, site plan requirements, proposed land lease arrangement and a cost sharing arrangement for maintenance services. On January 25, 2010 the Fire Department was tasked with the site plan arrangements in which we are now dealing with outside engineers to complete these tasks.
- The process has started with the writing of a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Computer Software. Once the RFP is completed and software is purchased there will be a challenge in getting staff familiar and trained on the system.
- Training – No recruit classes were initiated in 2009. With the hiring of the Deputy Fire Chief and the implementation of the Fire Master Plan, calling for a Training Officer, we can start once again to take a pro-active approach to recruitment and retention and most importantly ‘training’. With respect to the new software, we will also be able to improve our required record keeping, allowing a more efficient method of making sure that all 48 firefighters are up to date with certifications and the yearly testing required with some courses.
- CEMC – with the hiring of the Deputy Fire Chief, the municipality will once again have a trained and qualified designate CEMC. A trained/qualified designate is a requirement of Emergency Management Ontario in case the CEMC is away and not available.
- OH&S – we continue to work closely with Steve Conn to ensure all of our new and older S.O.G. (Standard Operating Guidelines) are up to date and in a state of readiness for a WSIB work well audit.
- Fire Prevention – The O.F.M. continue to support a zero tolerance on smoke alarms and alarm systems mandated by the Ontario Fire Code. The Fire Prevention Department is looking forward to additional inspectors, as approved in the Fire Master Plan, to assist in the day to day inspections and public education giving the Chief Fire Prevention Officer more time for a more pro-active approach to Fire Prevention, Code Enforcement and Mechanical duties.

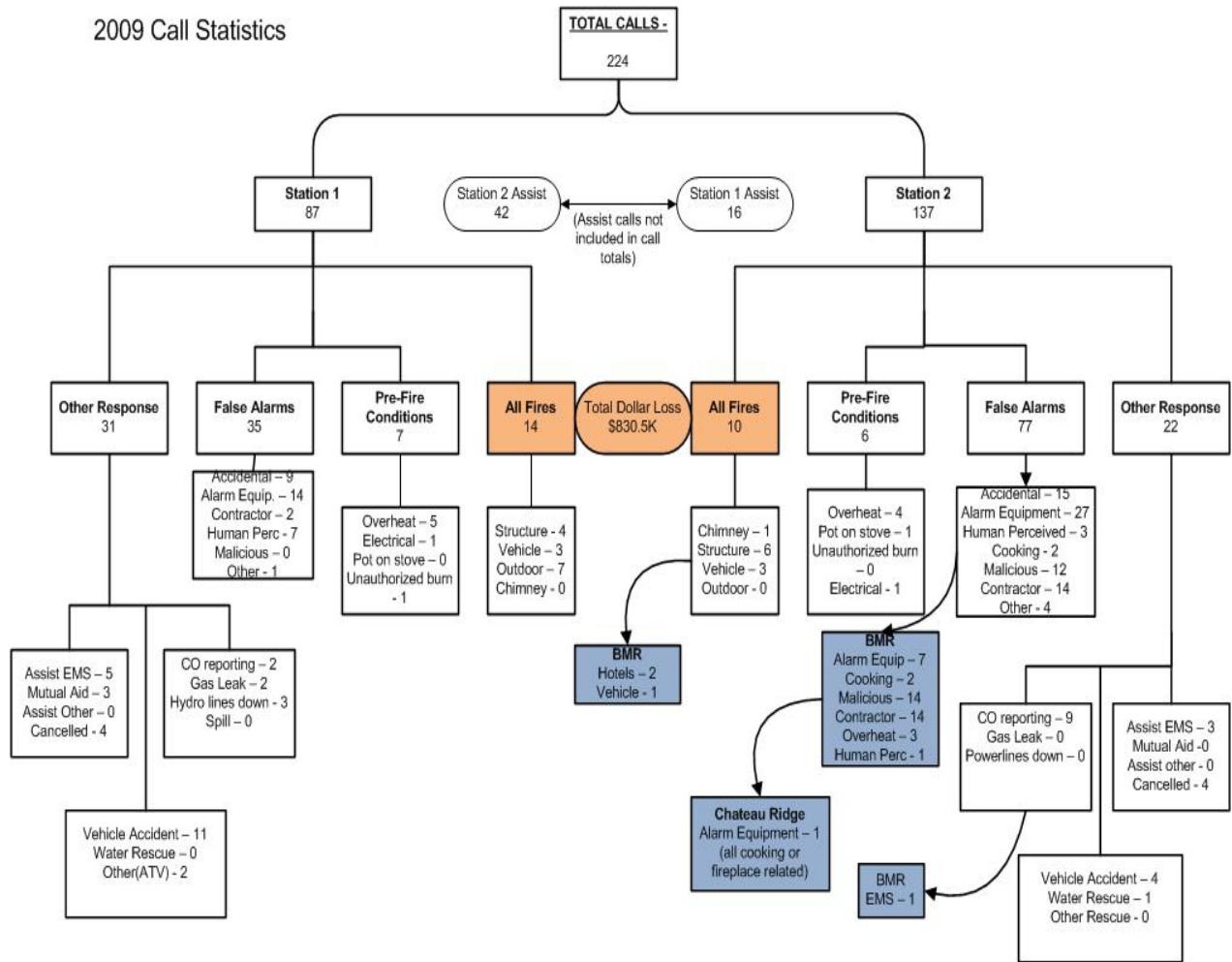
Short Term Accommodations – 3 fires resulted in \$560,000 in dollar loss in recent months and endangered the lives of 24 renters. In addition to a by-law requiring registration of these properties and subsequent annual fire inspections, we recommend tamper proof, interconnected smoke alarm systems with battery backup be a Municipal requirement to ensure adequate early warning for these

high occupant load units. A Municipal by-law will be proactive assurance of maintaining a minimum standard for life safety of renters in rental/income properties.

The maintenance of fire safety features and systems in larger occupancy buildings is a major concern following a recent inspection by a 3rd party Fire Protection Company. Complacency on the part of past Fire Protection Companies is being investigated, in addition to daily maintenance procedures performed by the building owners. Continued Fire Department presence and stricter enforcement will be required to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code in these areas to ensure occupant safety.

- Recruitment & Retention – The municipality has facilitated volunteer firefighters applying for permanent town jobs through our internal job posting process. I have been requesting the volunteers to apply for these positions. One volunteer firefighter was successful in securing a permanent position with the town in 2009.
- The Department is finishing a new orientation program for the hiring of volunteers, in so far as, streamlining the hiring process for full time firefighters from outside municipalities.

2009 Call Statistics



**Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
2009 Annual Report
Fire Prevention**

Months January - December

Year 2009

Inspections

Request	30
Institutional	9
Commercial	90
Industrial	41
Assembly	111
Residential	63
Tents	60
Display Fireworks	9
Public Amusement Area Fireworks	1
Outdoor Public Amusement Area Approved	7
Electrical Orders Issued	3
Total Inspections	442

Fire & Life Safety Education

Focus Group	Topic	# of persons
21		380

Distribution of Information

Quantity this Quarter	Quantity Year to Date
	6566

Public Service Announcements

Newspaper	Radio
27	60

Target Group Support

Target Group	Service
9	

Fire Safety Plans

Plans Under Review	Buildings Inspected	Plans Approved
	11	15

Preplans

Plans Developed	Sites Inspected	Plans Presented to Dept.
6	6	3

Smoke Alarm Program

Dwellings Inspected	Deficiencies Identified
83	34

Fire Code Enforcement

Smoke alarm tickets issued – Part 1	Smoke alarm infractions Issued – Part 3	Part 3 – Fire Code Violations Registered	Results
2	3	0	3 guilty - \$5470.00

Fire Investigations

Property Type	\$ Loss	Possible Cause
	\$830,500.00	

Non- Emergency Responses

CO Alarm	Smoke Alarm	Other
10	4	10

False Alarm By-law Letters Issued

R1	R2	R3	C1	C2	C3
5			1		

**Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
2009 Annual Report
Training**

TRAINING STATS Annual – 2009 (In House)

Station # 1	Station # 2
1216 Hours	1422 Hours

In House training takes place every Monday night throughout the year.

TOPIC	NUMBER OF HOURS
Truck Checks / SCBA Maintenance Checks	696
Emergency Patient Care	52
Pumper Operations	114
Portable Pumps Operations	158
Auto Extrication / High Pressure Air Bags	92
Confined Space Training / Scenario	150
Interior Search & Rescue	256
Land Based Water Rescue	128
Ground Ladders	98
Ropes / High Angle Rappel	172
Hose Testing	106
SCBA Training / RIT Training	172
Farm Industrial Specialized Rescue	62
Ventilation / PPV / Hydraulic	73
Preplan Reviews	78
Incident Command	66
Mapping / Run Routes	70
Natural Gas Presentation	68
Scenario Based Training	211
Portable Fire Extinguishers	18
Association Meetings	132
Component 1 & 2 Testing	36

Ontario Fire College Courses – January - December 2009

Ontario Fire College Course	Number of Days
28 Courses Attended	92

Other Outside Courses – January – December 2009

Outside Courses	Number of Days
3 Outside Courses Attended	5

****10 Firefighters received Achievement Awards for Component 1 & 2 Testing
12 Firefighters received Renewal Firefighter Certificates**

2009 TRAINING PERCENTAGES

HALL # 1

Below 50% Attendance	3 Firefighters
50% - 75%	8 Firefighters
76% - 100%	10 Firefighters

2009 RESPONSE CALLS

HALL # 1

Below 50% Attendance	6 Firefighters
50% - 75%	11 Firefighters
76% - 100%	2 Firefighter

2009 TRAINING PERCENTAGES

HALL # 2

Below 50% Attendance	1 Firefighters
50% - 75%	3 Firefighters
76% - 100%	16 Firefighters

2009 RESPONSE CALLS

HALL # 2

Below 50% Attendance	10 Firefighters
50% - 75%	6 Firefighters
76% - 100%	4 Firefighters

Note: Hall 2 Responses are down due to Injured Firefighters able to respond.

**YEARS OF SERVICE – HALL #1
Volunteer Firefighters**

FIREFIGHTER'S NAME	NUMBER OF YEARS
A. J. Lake	25
Steve Staveley	20
Tom Watts	18
Mike Keaveney	18
Bryan Lowe	18
Randy Osborne	13
Shawn Postma	7
Shawn Everitt	5
Chris Cole	5
Scott Marritt	3
Andrew Morris	3
Luke Sauder	3
Devon McDonald	3
Leah Hewgill	3
Timo Hotari	Probationary
Chris Lowe	Probationary
Michael Hutten	Probationary
Chris Allen	Probationary
Joseph Scott	Probationary
Jim Walton	Probationary
David Dick	Probationary

December 2009

Summary:

25 Years – 1
 20 Years – 1
 18 Years – 3
 13 Years – 1
 7 Years – 1
 5 Years – 2
 3 Year - 5
 Probationary – 7

December 2008

Summary:

24 Years - 1
 19 Years - 1
 17 Years - 2
 13 Years - 1
 6 Years - 1
 4 Years - 2
 2 Years - 5
 Probationary - 0

**YEARS OF SERVICE – HALL #2
Volunteer Firefighters**

FIREFIGHTER'S NAME	NUMBER OF YEARS
Rob Keith	21
Steve Conn	19
Wayne Marritt	18
Al Sawatzky	9
Scott Wright	9
Bruce Fraser	7
Tyler Spies	7
Mike Keeling	7
Elijah McCaffrey	5
Derek McKenzie	3
Sean McKenzie	2
Colin Macready	2
Marijan Lucic	2
Darren Johnston	2
Mike Scott	2
Meghan Loney	2
Cody Zanardo	2
Ian Doherty	Probationary
Michelle Lakoseljac	Probationary

December 2009 Summary:

21 Years – 1
 19 Years – 1
 18 Years – 1
 9 Years – 2
 7 Years – 3
 5 Years – 1
 3 Years – 1
 2 Years – 7
 Probationary – 2

December 2008 Summary:

20 Years – 1
 18 Years – 1
 17 Years – 1
 8 Years – 2
 6 Years – 3
 4 Years – 1
 2 Years – 1
 1 Years – 7
 Probationary – 0

**Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
2009 Annual Report
Mechanical**

Months – January – December

Year - 2009

Apparatus Repair Costs

Unit #	Routine Maintenance	Unexpected Repair	Cost
191	3055	515	3570
192	1307	680	1987
171	1225	90	1315
172	1200	290	1490
181	1317	14	1331
502	1015	410	1425
503	7372		7372
291	1230	370	1600
261	2190	3800	5990
281	835	275	1110
271	730	1000	1730
501		4870	4870
504	1360	120	1480
Total	22836	12434	35270

Months – January – December

Year - 2009

Equipment Repair Costs

Unit #	Routine Maintenance	Unexpected Repair	Cost
Small Engines	1166	470	1636
SCBA	2600	1970	4570
Gas Meters			
Communications			
Hydraulics			
Ground Ladders	2795		2795
Air Fill Station			
Bunker Gear			
Tools/Chemicals	718		718

**Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
2009 Annual Report
Emergency Management**

We have completed the Annual Community “Essential” Level Program. This consists of 15 elements to be completed and sent in to Emergency Management Ontario. This Statement of Completion is to be in compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and its associated Regulation 380/04.

The following are the 15 elements which are required to be completed:

1. CEMC designated
2. CEMC training completed
3. Community Emergency Management Program Committee established
4. Emergency Management Program Bylaw current
5. Hazard identification and risk assessment current
6. Emergency Response Plan reviewed and submitted to Emergency Management Ontario
7. Emergency Response Plan Bylaw current
8. Designated Emergency Operations Center
9. Emergency Operations Center communications equipment
10. Critical Infrastructure Inventory current
11. Required annual training for Community Control Group
12. Required annual emergency management exercise for Community Control Group
13. Designated Emergency Information Officer available
14. Public Education/Awareness Program delivered to residents
15. Review elements and submitted to Emergency Management Ontario

On August 20, 2009 a Tornado moved northeast through the town. A short summary of this event was attached to the 3rd Quarter Report.